



“Interpretation
should capitalize
mere curiosity for
the enrichment of
the human mind
and spirit.”

Freeman Tilden, *Interpreting
Our Heritage*

National Park Service

Freeman Tilden Award

2004 Winner:

Sue Fischer

Exhibits Specialist
Flagstaff Area National Monuments

Planning and Development of New
Interpretive Exhibits for Sunset
Crater Volcano Visitor Center

The Freeman Tilden Award is the highest award presented to a National Park Service (NPS) interpreter. The award is presented annually and recognizes an outstanding contribution to the practice of interpretation and education. The Director of the NPS presented this year's award to Sue Fischer at an Excellence in Interpretation Ceremony, held on November 18, at the National Association for Interpretation Workshop in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Pictured below: presentation of the region-level award in October. Left to right: Superintendent Palma Wilson, Exhibits Specialist Sue Fischer, Intermountain Region Chief of Interpretation Neil DeJong.



The Sunset Crater Volcano Visitor Center Exhibit



The initial exhibit introduces both scientific and traditional approaches to the volcano, through a high-tech AV experience coupled with a mural by an American Indian artist.



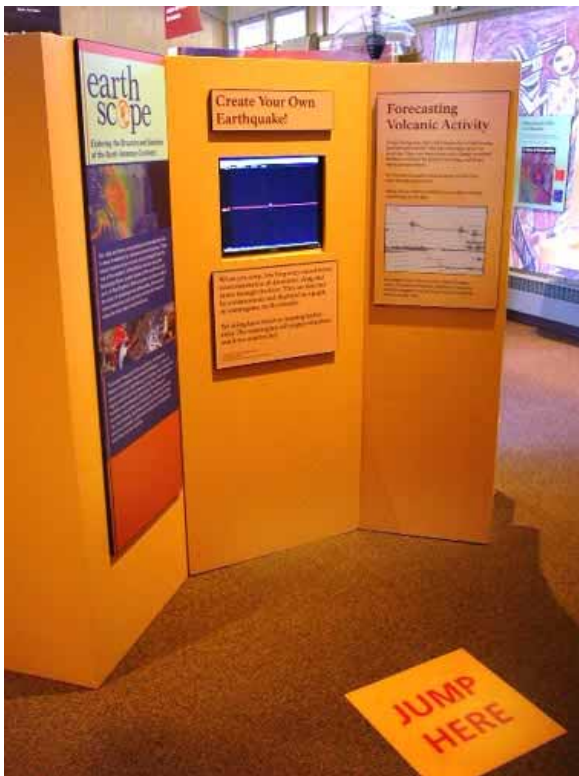
A replica ponderosa pine tree introduces species found in this habitat and the process of tree ring analysis.



Push button illuminates volcanic eruptions in sequence, showing Sunset as the youngest in the San Francisco Volcanic Field



The project included a new information desk and new oversize graphics. At listening station in right foreground, contemporary American Indian voices speak of their connections to Sunset Crater Volcano in both native languages and English.



Jump here, and your personal earthquake appears on the monitor. The Earthscope Project, one of the project partners, contributed the panel on the left.



Seismograph and a live Internet connection record real-time and recent earthquakes. In the background, a visitor takes a virtual flyover of the volcano, experiencing the crater in a way not otherwise available to visitors.



Exploring the exhibits





Sue has remained intimately involved in every aspect of this project, from moving in the first exhibitry....



... to wiring the interactive components...



... to explaining the new exhibits to visitors at the grand opening, June 2004.